

## Abstract

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse the legal regulations related to the protection of animals against cruelty. Many jurisdictions around the world have enacted statutes which forbid cruelty to animals because of the recognition of an animal's ability to feel pain. I also tried to summarize also the legal sources in European as well as in our legislation. The thesis is composed of four chapters, each of them dealing with different overview of animal cruelty laws.

Chapter One is introductory and defines basic terminology used in the thesis. The chapter is subdivided into four parts. These parts deal with philosophical claims about the status of animals and the first tendency to protect them. Part Four focuses on animal welfare. Animal welfare is the viewpoint that all animals, especially those under human care, should be treated in such a way that they do not suffer unnecessarily.

Chapter Two reports on international protection of animals. Many organizations all around the world are trying to convince governments and key decision makers to change practices and introduce new laws to protect or improve the welfare of animals. The most important Conventions signed by the member states of the Council of Europe are mentioned.

Chapter Three is concerned with the European Union and its approach to protection of animals. The European Union and the Member States pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States. For example, the European Union has established a framework to protect animals used for experimental or scientific purposes by ensuring that they are adequately cared for and that no unnecessary pain or suffering is inflicted.

Chapter Four examines relevant Czech legislation. The conclusion summarise the findings of the previous chapters and suggest that the courts should better apply the legislation.